

REMARKS

Claims 1-19 remain in the present application. Claim 20 is cancelled. Claim 17 has been amended. Applicant respectfully requests further examination and reconsideration of the rejections based on the arguments set forth below.

35 U.S.C. Section 103 rejections

Paragraph 2 and 3 of the above referenced Office Action states that independent Claims 1, 7, and 17 are rejected as being unpatentable over Gupta et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,389,532) in view of Klebanoy et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,606,450). Applicant respectfully traverses.

Independent Claims 1, 7, and 17 each recite blocking transmission of a content file when the content file comprises a restricted data format. The independent claims recite examining the content file to determine whether the content file includes the digital signature, transmitting the content file when the content file includes the digital signature, blocking transmission of the content file when the digital signature is not included, and blocking transmission when the content file comprises a restricted data format. Thus, in addition to checking for the presence of a valid digital signature, the content file is examined to determine whether it is a restricted data format. If so, transmission is blocked.

Paragraph 4 of the above referenced Office Action relies on Klebanoy to show blocking transmission of the content file when the content file comprises a restricted data format, as in the claimed invention.

Applicants traverse by pointing out that the “access restriction data” described in the cited section of Klebanoy (e.g., Klebanoy Figure 3, reference numbers 74 and 78) is completely different from the “restricted data format” of the claimed invention. The

claimed invention blocks transmission of the content file based on the format of the file, e.g., whether the file is an MP3 file, or the like. Klebanoy blocks transmission based on the type of digital signature in the file. Klebanoy specifically refers to detecting the presence of associated access restriction data by interpreting a digital signature of the data (e.g., Klebanoy col. 5, lines 20-30, and Figure 3, reference numbers 80 and 82). Applicants respectfully assert that a digital signature is different than a data format.

Accordingly, Applicant asserts that the Gupta and Klebanoy combination does not show or suggest the claimed invention as recited in independent Claims 1, 7, and 17. Furthermore, Applicant has herein amended Claim 17 to specifically recite the content file being free of a digital signature. Thus, the claimed invention as recited in Claims 1-19 is not rendered unpatentable by the cited combination within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. Section 103.

CONCLUSION

Applicant respectfully asserts that all claims (Claims 1-19) are now in condition for allowance and Applicant earnestly solicits such action from the Examiner.

The Examiner is urged to contact Applicant's undersigned representative if the Examiner believes such action would expedite resolution of the present Application.

Please charge any additional fees or apply any credits to our PTO deposit account number: 23-0085.

Respectfully submitted,

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Glenn Barnes', is written over a horizontal line.

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